



5/2/2021

The 4th quarter began mid April and we are now officially in the homestretch. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their understanding, patience, and perseverance during this time. In particular, I'd like to thank our amazing teachers for going above and beyond for our students (and parents). Teacher Appreciation week is this week, May 3-7! Our staff has worked tremendously hard this year and we would like to show our appreciation for all that they have done. Please see the note below to participate.

Thank you to all that stepped up to fill our available board positions. We will be voting to accept or refuse their nomination at our May meeting. You must be a PTA member in good standing to vote.

Our next virtual PTA meeting will be **Tuesday, May 4th** at 7pm. All are welcome to join.

New business items:

Vote New Board Members

Approve March and April Meeting Minutes

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94760173681?pwd=YIBTekE4dHVWcUJQRUcwTIVGK0U3UT09>

Meeting ID: 947 6017 3681

Passcode: Gators

Nominees for the available board positions

A note from our nomination committee: We are pleased to announce the following candidates for the open positions:

2021-23 PTA Treasurer:

Einat Posner

2021-22 MCCPTA Representatives (may elect 2):

Mandy de Roo
Lauren Zarren

All are welcome to attend, though only PTA members in good standing may vote. Questions, comments, or concerns may be emailed to Brooke.cecil@gmail.com.

Teacher Appreciation

Fabulous Greenwood Community!

Teacher Appreciation week is next week, May 3rd-7th. We are gearing up for a week of notes, sweet treats and lunch to show our appreciation for all our fabulous staff members. The PTA has small treats planned for every day, but we need YOUR help for THANKFUL THURSDAY!

We would like to flood our staff with notes of appreciation from the community. On Thursday, May 6th, please bring in a note (or picture/drawing/painting etc) of appreciation for your classroom teacher. But we don't want to stop there! There are many staff members that work hard for our school community that are not classroom teachers. To help us get one note to every staff member, we have assigned a non-homeroom staff member or teacher to each class. Please ask your student to write a thank you note to the staff member listed next to their homeroom class.

We also have a few more that aren't mentioned on the list. If your child works with one of the following teachers, please consider writing a note or drawing a picture to send in for them:

Ms. Brooks (Instrumental Music)
Ms. Cole (Speech Pathologist)
Ms. Aggarwal (ESOL)
Ms. Rakis (teacher)
Ms. Chang (teacher)

Lastly, all students who are VIRTUAL NEXT WEEK, please drop off your notes of appreciation on WEDNESDAY in the bin outside the front door.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email melissafrye13@gmail.com.

| Homeroom Teacher | Non-Homeroom Staff Member |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| K | |
| Caretti | Ms. Carroll (School Secretary) |
| Boray | Ms. Wepasnick (Music) |
| George | Ms. Brooks (Food Service Manager) |
| Voorhees | Ms. Zamillo (Academic Intervention) |

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | |
| Persaud | Mr. Jones (PE) |
| Mankulish | Ms. Newman (Art) |
| Ramienski | Ms. Spieden (Media Assistant) |
| Matz | Mr. Chuldzinski (Media) |
| 2 | |
| Falzarano | Ms. Thomas (Paraeducator) |
| Cravath | Building Services Team |
| Myers | Ms. Kosiorowski (Paraeducator) |
| Wooten | Ms. Lee (Counselor) |
| 3 | |
| Mencia | Ms. Silva (Paraeducator) |
| Kahn | Ms. Myers (Reading Specialist) |
| VanEyck | Ms. Graham (Staff Development) |
| Cox | Ms. Grasso (Special Educator) |
| 4 | |
| Hodge | Ms. Howe (Paraeducator) |
| Delaney | Ms. Boss (Paraeducator) |
| George | Ms. Kachadorian (Special Educator) |
| Krantz | Ms. Sinon (Assistant Principal) |
| 5 | |
| Peters | Ms. Byrum (Health Tech) |
| Andriani | Ms. Gasçon (School Admin Secretary) |
| Hughes-Lloyd | Ms. Zimmerman (Principal) |

Dining Night Out

Dining Night Out for May is a fundraiser for our amazing 5th grade graduating class. It will take place on May 11th at Chick-Fil-A from 4-8pm. Take a break from trying to think of what to make for dinner and pick up some take out!

Curriculum Update

Discussed at our April meeting was the proposed elimination of the 4/5 compacted math track next year. I'm happy to report that at the Board of Education meeting on April 20, they announced that accelerated tracks will continue next year.

During this past year MCPS has had to remove and/or compact curriculum content in various courses including math. The learning lag from this past year is due in part to the virtual environment and in part due to the reduced schedule, ie no new content on Wednesdays. MCPS now needs to re-incorporate content that was removed and re-solidify content that was compacted in many courses. The suggested recovery time for this information is 2.5 years.

MCPS has provided an overview of content by grade level/course that was compressed or omitted for the 2020-2021 school year. Compression means that instruction was minimized to allow for exposure, but not instructed with the depth of understanding the standard demands.

[Elementary Math 2020-2021: Compressed & Omitted Content \(montgomeryschoolsmd.org\)](https://montgomeryschoolsmd.org)

We will continue to monitor and share information as it continues to evolve. Here are a few of the points concerning curriculum that MCCPTA has recommended to MCPS as a result of the meeting on April 8:

1. Recommend MCPS provide information about the Assessments planned and how those assessments will identify where the student is on their math pathway.
2. Recommend MCPS clearly outline how staffing and cluster groupings will align.
3. Recommend MCPS be very clear about how students ready for “Acceleration” are identified and ensure the recommended criteria are transparent and consistent across all schools.
4. Recommend MCPS and the Board of Education define and refine with community members an appropriate role for parents in the advocacy for accelerated content and be forthcoming with potential impacts.
5. Recommend MCPS explain very clearly to families about the “content omission” but also acknowledge this is in addition to possible learning loss.
6. Recommend MCPS provide a sound basis for how it has determined (even with omission and compaction of content) that all students will need a 2.5 recovery period to catch up.
7. Recommend MCPS consider augmenting the math pathways – moving away from “grade” as the level based on their age/grade but instead, use mastery as the measure for a course for the 2.5 period.
8. Recommend MCPS conduct another community meeting focused on *ALL* student groups and their distinctive student needs, not just focused on acceleration aspects.
9. Recommend MCPS clearly identify where/if MCPS will have one data threshold for some students and a different data threshold for others, and why.
10. Recommend MCPS plan an additional discussion to address ELA and for both ELA and Math, identify and address implications for special education and English language learners - instruction, pacing, and learning.
11. Recommend development of a community communications plan. Any curriculum/learning adjustment/ plan must be meaningfully socialized in advance with parents, guardians and students.

MCPS/ Board of Education Update

- During the April 20th BoE meeting the collapse of A/B week rotation was denied.
- As stated this week, Wednesdays will remain virtual learning days for all students. The Board of Education asked MCPS to look into the possibility of using Wednesdays, which are currently virtual learning days for all students, as in-person learning days. After careful review and consideration, the superintendent has determined that Wednesdays will remain virtual due to the significant impact the proposed change would have on:
 - academic interventions and supports for students
 - special education meetings and supports
 - ongoing individual and standardized testing
 - staff planning time
- As of now they will not be reducing spacing requirements to below 6 feet.
- MCPS is updating its quarantine and isolation guidelines for students and staff. In alignment with updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and from state and local officials, MCPS has updated its guidelines related to quarantine and isolation, **effective immediately**. Previously, MCPS required individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 to isolate for **14 days**. The required isolation period is **now 10 days**. Additionally, the required quarantine period is also now reduced to 10 days (under certain circumstances). More information is available here:
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/reopening/#Isolation>.
- MCPS will provide an in-person, five-day week schedule for students in the fall. On April 27, the Maryland State Board of Education passed a resolution stating that schools should be open in-person for the required 180 days of instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. In the coming months, MCPS will finalize a detailed fall reopening plan and present it to the Board of Education and MCPS community. This plan will also include more information on the [MCPS Virtual Academy](#), a full-time virtual learning program for students in Prekindergarten to Grade 12. Virtual learning has worked well for a number of students and families. The Virtual Academy will be a centrally managed program and will partner with students' home schools to provide the academic and social-emotional support students need to thrive in virtual instruction. Be sure to complete the [interest survey](#) by May 1. Your responses will help MCPS plan for virtual learning. This **is not a commitment** to attend the Virtual Academy and does not guarantee admission; it is intended to gauge family interest. More information on how to

apply for the Virtual Academy will be shared soon. There will be specific criteria for admission.

Covid Communication

I wanted to reiterate my notes gathered from MCPS on Covid communication (and amended by administration during our April PTA meeting). There are 3 letters provided by MCPS in the event of a positive Covid positive in school. 1, There was an exposure in the school. Translation: there is someone positive in the school but you have not been determined to have direct, prolonged exposure with them. 2, You have been in direct contact with a positive individual. Which means prolonged exposure within 6 feet of a positive individual. *Important, note the 6 foot detail. If there is a positive individual in a classroom the entire classroom may not be deemed exposed, therefore only individuals directly around that person may get this letter. 3, You are the positive individual.

5th Grade Update

Hello 5th grade families!

Rosa Parks Middle School PTA really wants to welcome you to RPMS and have them start feeling like a part of our community! In an effort to help get them (hopefully) excited about going to a new school, we would like to share our spirit wear link with you. Shipping is free and we are excited for a more traditional school year next year.

Here is the link to the electronic version of the flyer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FoZ2n-OeJQif2ylwyKcYEaQqDF9ck5KQ/view?usp=sharing>

Also, if you are interested in receiving updates on both official and unofficial ideas for celebrating Greenwood's 50th year 5th graders, please send an email to mandyderoo@gmail.com with your name, your 5th grader's name and teacher's name. Mandy will send recaps of the meetings we are holding with school administration regarding ideas/plans for official, school-sanctioned celebrations (such as t-shirts, clap out, etc.) as well as any unofficial, non-school sponsored ideas that arise. Mandy will also use this list to solicit volunteers to help with any items (such as chalking driveways) as necessary. It's not too late to participate in the school committee - if you want your voice to be heard, please join the next committee meeting!

Summer School

MCPS will offer a wide range of summer programs for elementary, middle and high school students. Programs will be focused on helping students engage in unfinished learning following this unprecedented school year, with a focus on mathematics, literacy, enrichment, and preparing for the next grade level. Programs will:

- Be offered at no cost to all students, with transportation available
- Be offered in all local schools/clusters
- Have all-virtual and in-person options*
**All-virtual programs will be offered centrally and have student enrollment across many schools. Local school programs will offer in-person instruction.*
- Registration will open May 3, 2021 at 3pm
- Run 5 days per week (except July 5), approximately 4.5 hours per day
- High school credit courses: Begin June 28, two 3-week sessions
- Elementary and middle school programs: July 6 – 30 and Title I Schools: July 6 – August 6

Families will hear directly from their schools about the programs the school will offer.

For more information visit the [MCPS website](#).

Registration for summer school begins May 3rd.

Before and After Care at Greenwood For 2021/2022 School Year

MCCA (Montgomery Child Care Association) is returning to Greenwood to offer before and after care services next year. Open from 7-9am and 3-6pm. For any of you that may be interested please contact Georgia.ferentinos@mccaedu.org about enrolling.

MCCPTA Special Education Committee webinar

Last week there was a webinar that discussed options for parents of students with IEPs who have regressed or experienced learning loss and may have missed IEP services during virtual learning. It is an important topic that has been discussed throughout the pandemic with many parents wanting answers. MCCPTA hosted Nicole Joseph, an education attorney to speak on what parents can do to help their children with disabilities with recovery at this time.

If interested, here is a link to the webinar recording: <https://youtu.be/7vOA76n7lxA>

Weekly Attestation Form

If attending in person school you need to fill out and turn in a [weekly attestation form](#).

Social Media:

Twitter: @GreenwoodPTA

Facebook: Greenwood Elementary School PTA

NEW! Please spread the word to incoming Kindergarten parents there is a new Facebook group: [Greenwood Kindergartners Fall 2021](#)

Kindergarten: [Greenwood Elementary Class of 2026 Mamas](#)

1st Grade: [Greenwood Elementary-Class of 2025](#)

2nd Grade: [Greenwood E.S. - Second Grade Parents \(class of 2024\)](#)

3rd Grade: [Greenwood Gators Third Grade Parents](#)

4th Grade: [Greenwood Elementary Class of 2022 Mamas](#)

5th Grade: [Greenwood Elementary class of 2021](#)

Important Dates

- May 3-7: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 4: PTA meeting, 7-8pm (Electing new treasurer and MCCPTA representatives)
- May 7th: Spirit Day: Wear GES gear or green
- May 11: DNO at Chick-Fil-A from 4-8pm
- May 13: School Closed
- May 18th: 6:30pm, Virtual Instrumental Music Recital
- May 31: Holiday, School Closed
- June 1: PTA meeting, 7-8pm
- June 4: Wear GES gear or green
- June 16: **Last day of school (Early Release)**

Let's finish the year out strong and hopefully next year will be a return to normal. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Mary Quirion

PTA President

President@Greenwood-PTA.org